

### **In the Claims**

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1     1.   [Currently amended] A method for identifying duplicate  
2     records among multiple systems, comprising the steps of:

3           loading first records having an index number into a  
4           database from a plurality of accounts payable systems  
5           during a first predetermined time period;

6           for each record having said index number, searching  
7           said database for another record, loaded during a  
8           second earlier time period, having the same index  
9           number and replacing said another record, if found,  
10          with said first record;

11          comparing each first record for which no matching index  
12          number record was found with all other first records  
13          for which no matching index number record was found;

14          comparing each of said first records for which no  
15          matching index number record was found with all the  
16          other records including the replaced records in said

17 database;

18 generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports

19 listing records which compared; and

20 eliminating from said database said first records

21 deemed to have compared.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, said records being  
2 invoice records.

3-5 [Canceled]

1 6. [Currently amended] ~~The method of claim 3, further~~  
2 ~~comprising the step~~ A method for providing a report that can  
3 be used to evaluate two or more invoiced documents for  
4 further investigation of possible duplicate invoicing,  
5 comprising the steps of:

6 maintaining a compact database by entering invoice data  
7 to said compact database from a plurality of accounts  
8 payable systems for payment at a later date and  
9 removing canceled invoice documents and invoice  
10 documents older than a predetermined period;

11 responsive to submission of an invoice with a null  
12 invoice indicia field [[of]] entering date indicia in  
13 said null invoice indicia field;  
  
14 extracting data from said compact database by matching  
15 on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount;  
  
16 checking said compact database for duplicate invoices  
17 before said later date; and  
  
18 producing said report from said data.

1 7. [Currently amended] Method for capturing packets of  
2 possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from  
5 all systems;

6 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices  
7 based upon first expert criteria to form an  
8 investigative packet;

maintaining as a first subset of said investigative packet a collection of current invoices that have not yet been paid;

maintaining as a second subset of said investigative packet a collection of history invoices that have been paid;

generating based on second expert criteria from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet plurality of intermediate packets of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices;

dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate packets based on third expert criteria;

flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets based on fourth expert criteria;

dropping from said remaining intermediate packets to form a final set of packets invoices which have not been flagged; and

28 generating from ~~a plurality of~~ said final set of  
29 packets a first report of invoices having same invoice  
30 numbers and vendor numbers, a second report of invoices  
31 having similar vendor names and same invoice amounts; a  
32 third report of invoices having similar invoice dates  
33 and invoice amounts differing only ~~on-flagged~~ on  
34 flagged conditions; a fourth report of invoices having  
35 same invoice amounts and invoice numbers but not same  
36 date and vendor name; a fifth report of invoices having  
37 same invoice numbers and vendor names but not same  
38 vendor number and invoice amount; and a sixth report of  
39 invoices having same invoice numbers, vendor name and  
40 invoice amounts, irrespective of invoice date.

41 8. [Original] The method of claim 7, each invoice  
42 comprising a record including vendor identifier indicia,  
43 vendor record indicia, date indicia, and amount indicia.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 8, each said record  
2 including a vendor record indicia field, a data indicia  
3 field, and an amount indicia field.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 9, further comprising

2 the steps of:

3 flagging said invoices in said packet against each  
4 other with respect to expert criteria;

5 dropping from said packet unflagged invoices; and

6 discarding remaining packets having no current  
7 invoices.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging record pairs having transposed digits  
3 in said vendor record indicia fields.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step responsive to receiving an invoice with null vendor  
3 record indicia field of entering date indicia as date-like  
4 indicia to said vendor record indicia field.

1 13. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor  
3 identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor  
4 indicia field.

1 14. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor  
3 record indicia.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs having, for matching  
3 vendor identification indicia, matching vendor record  
4 indicia except for a prefix or suffix character.

1 16. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor  
3 identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of  
4 different lengths.

1 17. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising  
2 the step of flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor  
3 record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

1 18. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 flagging invoice pairs having transposed digits in said  
4 vendor record indicia fields;

5 flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier  
6 indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia  
7 field;

8 flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record  
9 indicia;

10 flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor  
11 identification indicia, matching vendor record indicia  
12 except for a prefix or suffix character;

13 flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor  
14 identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of  
15 different lengths; and

16 flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record  
17 indicia while ignoring embedded blanks.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of forcing all said invoices to be current.

1 20. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having same vendor and invoice  
3 numbers.



1 21. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having similar vendor names  
3 and same invoice amount.

1 22. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having similar invoice dates  
3 and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

1 23. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having same invoice amount and  
3 numbers but not same date and vendor name.

1 24. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having same invoice number and  
3 vendor name but not same vendor number and invoice amount..;

1 25. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 the step of capturing packets having the same vendor number  
3 and same invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice  
4 date.

1 26. [Original] A program storage device readable by a  
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
identifying duplicate records among multiple systems, said  
method steps comprising:

loading first records having an index number into a  
database during a first predetermined time period;

for each record having said index number, searching  
said database for another record, loaded during a  
second earlier time period, having the same index  
number and replacing said another record, if found,  
with said first record;

comparing each first record for which no matching index  
number record was found with all other first records  
for which no matching index number invoice was found;

comparing each of said first invoices for which no  
matching index number record was found with all the  
other records including the replaced records in said  
database;

generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports  
listing records which compared; and

22 eliminating from said database said first records  
23 deemed to have compared.

1 27. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4 providing a report that can be used to evaluate two or more  
5 invoiced documents for further investigation of possible  
6 duplicate invoicing, said method steps comprising:

7 maintaining a compact database by removing canceled  
8 invoice documents and invoice documents older than a  
9 predetermined period;

10 responsive to submission of an invoice with a null  
11 invoice indicia field entering date indicia in said  
12 null invoice indicia field;

13 extracting data from said compact database by matching  
14 on suppliers invoice indicia, name, date and amount;  
15 and

16 producing said report from said data.

1 28. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4 capturing packets of possible duplicate invoices for  
5 duplicate invoice analysis, said method steps comprising:

6 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from  
7 all systems;

8 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices  
9 based upon first expert criteria to form an  
10 investigative packet;

11 maintaining as a first subset of said investigative  
12 packet a collection of current invoices that have not  
13 yet been paid;

14 maintaining as a second subset of said investigative  
15 packet a collection of history invoices that have been  
16 paid; [[and]]

17 generating based on second expert criteria from said  
18 current invoices and said history invoices a packet  
19 plurality of intermediate packets of invoices

20 exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate  
21 packet including at least one invoice from said  
22 collection of current invoices;

23 dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate  
24 packets based on third expert criteria;

25 flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets  
26 based on fourth expert criteria; and

27 dropping from said remaining intermediate packets to  
28 form a final set of packets invoices which have not  
29 been flagged.

1 29. [Currently amended] A system for capturing packets of  
2 possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis,  
3 comprising:

4 a set of invoices including all invoices from all  
5 systems;

6 an investigative packet formed by removing selected  
7 invoices from said set of invoices based upon first

8 expert criteria;

9 a first subset of said investigative packet including a  
10 current file of invoices that have not yet been paid;

11 a second subset of said investigative packet including  
12 a history file of invoices that have been paid; and

13 a ~~packet~~ plurality of intermediate packets of invoices  
14 generated based on second expert criteria from said  
15 first and second subsets ~~said current file and said~~  
16 ~~history files~~ for storing invoices exhibiting a same  
17 behavior, said packet including at least one invoice  
18 from said of current file; ~~and~~

19 a plurality of reports generated from a plurality of  
20 said packets including a first report of invoices  
21 having same invoice numbers and vendor numbers, a  
22 second report of invoices having similar vendor names  
23 and same invoice amounts; a third report of invoices  
24 having similar invoice dates and invoice amounts  
25 differing only ~~on flagged~~ on flagged conditions; a  
26 fourth report of invoices having same invoice amounts  
27 and invoice numbers but not same date and vendor name;

28 a fifth report of invoices having same invoice numbers  
29 and vendor names but not same vendor number and invoice  
30 amount; and a sixth report of invoices having same  
31 invoice numbers, vendor name and invoice amounts,  
32 irrespective of invoice date.

33 30. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
34 containing invoices having same vendor and invoice numbers.

1 31. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
2 containing invoices having similar vendor names and same  
3 invoice amount.

1 32. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
2 containing invoices having similar invoice dates and  
3 amounts, differing only on flagged conditions.

1 33. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
2 containing invoices having same invoice amount and numbers  
3 but not same date and vendor name.

1 34. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
2 containing invoices having same invoice number and vendor  
3 name but not same vendor number and invoice amount.

1 35. [Original] The system of claim 29, said packet  
2 containing invoices having the same vendor number and same  
3 invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice date.

1 36. [Original] A computer program product or computer  
2 program element for identifying duplicate records among  
3 multiple systems according to method steps comprising:

4 loading first records having an index number into a  
5 database during a first predetermined time period;

6 for each record having said index number, searching  
7 said database for another record, loaded during a  
8 second earlier time period, having the same index  
9 number and replacing said another record, if found,  
10 with said first record;

11 comparing each first record for which no matching index  
12 number record was found with all other first records  
13 for which no matching index number invoice was found;

14 comparing each of said first invoices for which no  
15 matching index number record was found with all the



16 other records including the replaced records in said  
17 database;  
  
18 generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports  
19 listing records which compared; and  
  
20 eliminating from said database said first records  
21 deemed to have compared.

1. 37. [Currently amended] A computer program product or  
2 computer program element for capturing packets of possible  
3 duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis according  
4 to method steps comprising:

5 preparing a set of invoices including all invoices from  
6 all systems;

7 removing selected invoices from said set of invoices  
8 based upon first expert criteria to form an  
9 investigative packet;

10 maintaining as a first subset of said investigative  
11 packet a collection of current invoices that have not  
12 yet been paid;

13 maintaining as a second subset of said investigative  
14 packet a collection of history invoices that have been  
15 paid; [[and]]

16 generating based on second expert criteria from said  
17 current invoices and said history invoices a packet  
18 plurality of intermediate packets of invoices  
19 exhibiting a same behavior, each said intermediate  
20 packet including at least one invoice from said  
21 collection of current invoices;

22 dropping packets from said plurality of intermediate  
23 packets based on third expert criteria;

24 flagging invoices in remaining intermediate packets  
25 based on fourth expert criteria; and

26 dropping invoices which have not been flagged from said  
27 remaining intermediate packets to form a final set of  
28 packets.